

# Lunch With A Lawyer

Luke 11:45-54

August 18, 2024

Pastor Art Dunn

## Introduction

- Preview
  - Pains/Displeases Jesus – Woe is a strong denunciation of words and actions.
  - Pitfalls We Face – When we try to express values and how we are living them.
  - What Distortions Do To People – When we follow legalism.
  - Value Of Correct History – History is a great explanation of where we are and how we got there.
  - Conclusions That Block Truth – False assumptions give wrong truths.

## Scripture Reading

Luke 11:37-54 NIV -One Dinner Party

- 2 Themes: Integrity & Legalism
  - Luke 37-44 – Six Woes (Integrity)
  - Luke 11:45-54 (Legalism)

### **Luke 11:37-44**

#### **Woes to the Pharisees and Lawyers**

<sup>37</sup> While Jesus was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him, so he went in and reclined at table. <sup>38</sup> The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner. <sup>39</sup> And the Lord said to him, “Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. <sup>40</sup> You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? <sup>41</sup> But give as alms those things that are within, and behold, everything is clean for you.

<sup>42</sup> “But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. <sup>43</sup> Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seat in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. <sup>44</sup> Woe to you! For you are like unmarked graves, and people walk over them without knowing it.”

### **Luke 11: 45-54**

<sup>45</sup> One of the lawyers answered him, “Teacher, in saying these things you insult us also.” <sup>46</sup> And he said, “Woe to you lawyers also! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers. <sup>47</sup> Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed. <sup>48</sup> So you are witnesses and you consent to the deeds of your fathers, for they killed them, and you build their tombs. <sup>49</sup> Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, ‘I will send them prophets

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and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,' <sup>50</sup> so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, <sup>51</sup> from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation. <sup>52</sup> Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering."

<sup>53</sup> As he went away from there, the scribes and the Pharisees began to press him hard and to provoke him to speak about many things, <sup>54</sup> lying in wait for him, to catch him in something he might say.

## MAIN IDEA

Legalism Makes Us Burden or Manipulative...

- **Luke 11:46** And he said, "Woe to you lawyers also! For you load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers.
- Legalism is simply a means to make ourselves look good without God's help.
- Legalism is a system of particular behaviors that become an end in themselves and is divorced from the real absolutes of scripture.
- Legalism breaks the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment – it uses God's name in vain by attributing things to God that are not attributable to Him.
- Legalism pains and displeases the heart of Jesus – Luke 11:46
- Legalism makes us to look for methods or ways to circumvent the laws and regulations.

...Dishonest and Disjointed...

- **Luke 11:47-51** <sup>47</sup> Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets whom your fathers killed. <sup>48</sup> So you are witnesses and you consent to the deeds of your fathers, for they killed them, and you build their tombs. <sup>49</sup> Therefore also the Wisdom of God said, 'I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and persecute,' <sup>50</sup> so that the blood of all the prophets, shed from the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation, <sup>51</sup> from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation.
- **Micah 6:8** He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

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- **Isaiah 1:10-20** <sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Give ear to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! <sup>11</sup> “What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. <sup>12</sup> “When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts? <sup>13</sup> Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations—I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. <sup>14</sup> Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. <sup>15</sup> When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. <sup>16</sup> Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, <sup>17</sup> learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause. <sup>18</sup> “Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. <sup>19</sup> If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; <sup>20</sup> but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”
- *Message of the prophets was to walk in intimate fellowship with God and living a full relationship with God and His ways and being preoccupied with Him.*
- *When God's people have an understanding of scriptural history, they are not making up rules and regulations.*

...Unresponsive to The Truth.

- **Luke 11:52** Woe to you lawyers! For you have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter yourselves, and you hindered those who were entering.”
- Legalism keeps you from pursuing the real truth and the truth behind the values.

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## CONCLUSION:

Every Sermon Should Have Something To

- ❖ Know/Understand: It is possible for me to displease Jesus by what I tell people. And when I give people religious information, I want to make sure I am passing on the right information. I don't want Jesus to say woe to me.
- ❖ Believe: The best I can do is to keep my eyes on Jesus and be careful about man-made rules and regulations that are add-ons that become the focus of attention. And help others keep their eyes on Jesus.
- ❖ Do: Study the Bible and I learn what the message of the prophets really is and what the lessons of Scripture are and put them to work in my life. Don't want Jesus to denounce something I say.